

ance of sound, similar contrivances being common in other castles of Norman character—such as at Rochester and elsewhere. From the castle, the archaeologists proceeded to the Church of Plympton Maurice, which they closely inspected. There are several curious portions in this church—such as the foundation or lower stage of the ancient pulpit, built into and forming part of one of the pillars on the south side of the nave. The Church of Plympton consists of a tower, nave, chancel, and side aisles, together with two large lateral chapels, one on either side: many windows have been restored. The curious Cinque Cento monument of Sir William Strode has been repaired, and repainted and gilded by the present representative of that very ancient family. There are three piscinas, two of which are very large: that in St. Catherine's Chapel has a credence shelf. On the south side of the altar are three sedilia. The porch is very large, and has a parvise over it: on the exterior are curious sculptures, representing the Angel Gabriel, the Virgin and her emblem, the fleur-de-lis, &c. It was stated, that within the memory of man the original stone pulpit had been knocked to pieces, for the purpose of forming sleepers to some of the present sleeping pens or pews, and that the old man who did the deed confessed himself after this style:—"O, ah, ees Sur, it wor voinely carved, but we'd a tarribal job to knock 'un abrad."

THE GLASS TRADE AT BIRMINGHAM.—The workmen at Mr. Rice Harris's establishment, in Broad-street, have struck work, and compelled Mr. Harris, it is said, to employ French operatives, whom, however, there appears to be a determination to annoy and expel. The workmen have not done so personally, but are charged with adopting "the Irish system" of procuring others to do it for them. There has hence been rioting in the streets, and a tailor was arrested for throwing stones at the new operatives. Mr. Harris disclaims all desire or intention of displacing English hands by foreigners.—A question as to defective mould machines for closely imitating cut-glass articles was lately tried at the Warwick County Court. Both plaintiff and defendant are Birmingham tradesmen. The defendant, Mr. Stevens, alleged that the mould machinery supplied by the plaintiff, Mr. Warner, was defective, the usual allowance not having been made for the expansion of the metal-moulds when the hot glass is poured in, so that the articles were either distorted in removal, or could not be got out at all. The plaintiff blamed the glass, which he said was of inferior quality, whereas his machines had gone to all parts of Great Britain, and given universal satisfaction. The magistrate was on the point of giving a verdict for the defendant, on the ground that the plaintiff had not offered to rectify defects; but a nonsuit was allowed, on the mutual understanding that these would be rectified, and the balance of price paid.

THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—At the last meeting of the association, previous to the annual congress, which is to be held in Worcester, commencing on the 14th of August, Mr. Fairholt read a paper on "Mural Painting," as a domestic decoration in the middle ages, remarking, that the more generally diffused taste for antiquities which characterizes the present time, and the more careful record of discoveries made, in altering or repairing churches and old buildings, together with the facilities afforded by archaeological associations for giving such records publicity and permanency in their journals, have added much to our knowledge of the habits and customs of our ancestors in the retirements of their domestic life, where the chronicler rarely followed them, and of which we know least. These and similar notices satisfactorily shew, by their number and variety, how widely the taste for such decoration spread during the middle ages; and that, far from such displays being rare, they were all but universal,—appearing as well upon the walls of the humble village church as upon those of the more sumptuous cathedral. The object of the paper was to show that the same taste for wall-paintings existed in private life, where more expensive tapestry could not be afforded, or was not deemed requisite; that it occupied, in fact, the place of modern portable pictures, diffusing religious or moral instruction, or reviving the remembrance

of the popular romances and tales, by the vivid representation of the principal scenes and actions therein narrated. Church decoration of this kind, he observed, was often concealed by whitewash, and is not unfrequently brought to light; but specimens of domestic internal wall painting are of much greater rarity, particularly if of an early date—a circumstance easily accounted for by the rapid and continuous changes which fashion or altered habits render necessary or usual, and which induce a succeeding generation so speedily to obliterate or improve the residences of the preceding one. Thus, while the exterior of many an old mansion or private dwelling may preserve its more ancient appearance, it is a matter of much greater rarity to find their interiors present any of their original features. He then directed attention to a curious fragment still remaining in a private house in Salisbury, which represents the visit of the three Magi to the Virgin and Child; and instanced the frequency with which such subjects were depicted, and the superstitious value that was attached to the names of relics of the "three kings of Cologne," as they were frequently termed.

THE OLD CLOISTERS AT WESTMINSTER.—The removal of the lath and plaster rubbish which has long encumbered the old cloisters on the east side of Westminster Hall, has let in the light on their great and manifold beauties. The minute and elegant sculptured decorations which are carried web-like over the whole surface, make the so-called excess of decoration on the new parts appear positive plainness by comparison. The little chapel offers many points deserving of study. In the course of the operations, some of the old Norman work forming the side of the hall has become exposed: it shews two semi-circular headed windows, with a hatched string-course underneath. The object of the clearance is to effect the communication between the new Houses and Westminster Hall.

SHEFFIELD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE.—The Sheffield Master Builders' School of Architecture was opened on the 17th, when an address was delivered by Mr. W. R. Harrison, Professor of Architecture, and general director to the school. Mr. Harrison said, that the objects of the school were, to provide historical, theoretical, and practical instruction in the art and science of architecture and building—to promote industry and skill—to explain the wants and defects in the practice of the trade—to offer inducements to the cultivation of the fine arts—to promote good taste by the examination and study of nature—to form an alliance of industrial interests—and to labour for the general improvement of all classes of society. It had been said that the majority of the community have no need of any other culture than is necessary to fit them for their various trades and professions. But the grounds of man's culture lie in his nature—not in his calling. His powers are to be unfolded on account of their inherent dignity—not outward direction. He is to be educated because he is a man—not because he is to make shoes, nails, or pins. A trade is not the great end of his being, for his mind cannot be shut up in it. He has faculties to which it gives no action, and deep wants it cannot answer.

THE CHURCH OF SAFFRON-WALDEN.—A large interior view of the church of St. Mary, at Saffron-Walden, which has just been published by Mr. W. Doyley, of the Adelphi, and is now before us, leads us to remark upon the hideous screen which exists there between the nave and chancel, and is called the "Braybrooke Pew." It was placed there, we believe, by the late Lord Howard, and as long as it remains will be a monument to his bad taste. Endeavours should be made to get rid of it at once. The church is a good specimen of the perpendicular period, chiefly erected in the reigns of Henry VI. and VII. The height and breadth of the nave are considerable. The view shows the church as seen from the west end.

METROPOLITAN BUILDINGS ACT.—In answer to a question the other night, Lord Morpeth said he had received the opinions of a body of builders and architects on this subject, which were now under consideration. He hoped to reduce them into a satisfactory form, so as to be able to propose some legislative measure on the subject in the next session of Parliament.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 10th August, for the erection of schools and school-houses at Northaw, Herts; by 11th, for the erection of an Odd Fellows' literary institution at Birmingham; by 1st, for new store-rooms at the Lambeth Workhouse; by 31st July, for repairs to Lambourne Church; by same date, for repairs and alterations to four houses and range of stabling in the City; by a date not specified, for gas works and fittings for the station at Stoke-upon-Trent; by 9th August, for the construction of a large reservoir, a large watercourse, a viaduct, tunnel, and other works for the Manchester Corporation Water Works; by a date not specified, for the supply of about 7,500 tons of cast-iron 32 to 48-inch pipes for same works; by 5th August, for the various works to be done in the completion of the new assize courts at Liverpool; by 7th, for about thirty turntables, 12 feet diameter, for the London and South Coast Railway; by 1st, for providing fitting and furniture for industrial school-rooms, &c., at Leeds; and by 3rd, for a supply of 800 yards of broken granite for the roads at Bermondsey, &c.

COMPETITION.—Plans are wanted, by 1st September, for laying out grounds in streets and villas at Glasgow—premiums 30l., 20l., and 10l. for the first, second, and third best plan or design.

CONSOLIDATION OF METROPOLITAN COMMISSIONS OF SEWERS.—Lord Morpeth has obtained leave to bring in his Bill for the substitution of one commission of sewers for the metropolitan districts in place of seven separate commissions, as at present. The City is to be subject to the same rule adopted, in the Public Health Bill, in respect to boroughs surrounded by other town districts. It will therefore be included in the jurisdiction of the new commission, so far as the city sewerage is material to the drainage of the districts beyond its bounds. The Lord Mayor and four corporation commissioners are to be members of the new commission, entitled to vote on questions relating to this main sewerage; but in conformity with the Health Bill, the City Commission will superintend the improvement of internal house drainage. Powers are to be given not only for the more systematic prosecution of public drainage works, but for enforcing improved house drainage and removing nuisances. The principle of spreading charges for permanent works over periods of years is to be resorted to, in addition to the economy of improved expedients; and the commission is to be eventually elected by the inhabitants.

SCHOOL OF DESIGN, SOMERSET HOUSE.—On Friday, in last week, Mr. C. J. Richardson delivered a lecture to the students and their friends on *Perspective*, and, although it was a bad night, had a fair audience. First alluding to optics and the nature of vision in relation to perspective, he exhibited the *horizontorium* and some curious examples of Catoptric projection; then illustrated isometrical projection, then perspective projection; the first as exhibiting real form, the latter apparent form. He then gave a general description of linear perspective, explaining the station point, horizontal line, vanishing point, &c., and for interior perspective illustrated the subject by sketching the room we were in. A large number of drawings were exhibited.

ARTISTS AND BUILDERS IN BELGIUM.—We are sorry to read in a Belgic newspaper that thousands of men are out of work in Ghent. Half of the manufactories are suspended, and the other half are at work only three or four days a week. Not one of the master masons or carpenters has employment for one-fourth of the men he was able to engage last year. The sculptors, painters, and other artists, have their studios crowded with their productions, which no one will purchase at any price. In fine, there is in all ranks and all classes a reduced state of things which has become intolerable. The sole idea of economy pervades the minds of all classes, and cries of distress are the only echoes to the ministerial songs of joy.

PRICE OF COPPER.—The reduction in price at Birmingham, on Tuesday week, amounted to 9l. per ton, making the present price of tile copper 79l. 10s. per ton.